

IN THE CLAIMS:

No claim amendments are proposed in this response.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

1 5. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
2 a router, the router coupled with a network;
3 a number of dispatchers coupled with the router, each of the dispatchers having a local
4 dispatch table, wherein at least two of the dispatchers share a session entry
5 identifying a client and a selected server; and
6 a plurality of servers, each of the plurality of servers coupled with each of the number of
7 dispatchers;
8 wherein the router directs each communication received from the network to one of the
9 number of dispatchers, the one dispatcher to determine which of the plurality of
10 servers is to receive the communication.

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1 6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number
2 dispatchers and the plurality of servers are interconnected by a system area network.

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1 7. (Original) The system of claim 6, the system area network exhibiting an
2 InfiniBand® architecture.

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1 8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the network
2 comprises one or more networks selected from a group consisting of a Local Area
3 Network, a Wide Area Network, a Metropolitan Area Network, and the Internet.

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1 9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of
2 dispatchers are coupled with a port of the router, the port of the router exhibiting port
3 trunking.

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1 10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of
2 dispatchers have identical network addresses.

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1 11. (Original) The system of claim 5, the plurality of servers comprising:
2 a first server group providing a first application; and
3 at least a second server group providing a second, different application.

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1 12. (Original) The system of claim 11, each of the first server group and the
2 second server group comprising at least one server.

Claims 13-31 (Canceled)

1 32. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
2 receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of
3 dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
4 searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
5 transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if
6 the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
7 transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of
8 dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock
9 indicating that communications received from a client are to be transmitted to the
10 locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

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1 33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table
2 includes the client lock, the method further comprising:
3 selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and
4 transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1 34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a
2 dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality
3 of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating
4 removal of the client lock.

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1 35. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
2 receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet
3 including a connection request from a client;
4 creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that
5 packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a
6 server is selected for the client; and
7 broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of
8 the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

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1 36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
2 receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
3 transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1 37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
3 transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1 38. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting
2 another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said
3 another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the
4 client lock.

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1 39. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

2 receiving a packet at a router, the router coupled with a plurality of dispatchers, the

3 packet including a connection request from a client;

4 transmitting the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers;

5 selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers;

6 placing a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry

7 identifying the client and the selected server;

8 broadcasting a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of

9 the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the

10 selected server;

11 transmitting the packet to the selected server;

12 receiving a second packet at the router from the client; and

13 transmitting the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of

14 dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second

15 dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the

16 selected server.

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1 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

2 selecting a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the

3 plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with

4 a port of the router; and

5 transmitting the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

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1 41. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising randomly selecting
2 the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

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1 42. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
2 determining a load on each of the plurality of servers; and
3 selecting the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

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1 43. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
2 identifying an application associated with the packet; and
3 selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

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1 44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the first
2 dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of
3 dispatchers.

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1 45. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising replacing in the
2 packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a
3 network address of the selected server.

Claims 46-64 (Canceled)

1 65. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
3 that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
4 receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of
5 dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
6 search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
7 transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers
8 if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
9 transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the
10 plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the
11 client lock indicating that communications received from a client are to be
12 transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the
13 client.

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1 66. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table
2 including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the
3 machine to:
4 select a server from the plurality of servers; and
5 transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1 67. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table
3 update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers,
4 the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the
5 client lock.

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1 68. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
3 that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
4 receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first
5 packet including a connection request from a client;
6 create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating
7 that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one
8 dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and
9 broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers
10 of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the
11 client lock.

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1 69. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:
3 receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
4 transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1 70. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3 select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
4 transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1 71. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch
3 table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch
4 table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

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1 72. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:

2 a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3 that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4 receive a packet at a router, the router coupled with a plurality of dispatchers, the

5 packet including a connection request from a client;

6 transmit the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of

7 dispatchers;

8 select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of

9 dispatchers;

10 place a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session

11 entry identifying the client and the selected server;

12 broadcast a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers

13 of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the

14 client and the selected server;

15 transmit the packet to the selected server;

16 receive a second packet at the router from the client; and

17 transmit the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality

18 of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the

19 second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second

20 packet to the selected server.

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1 73. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein
2 the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3 select a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the
4 plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with
5 a port of the router; and
6 transmit the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

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1 74. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 73, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to randomly select the
3 communication link from the plurality of communication links.

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1 75. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3 determine a load on each of the plurality of servers; and
4 select the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

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1 76. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3 identify an application associated with the packet; and
4 select the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

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1 77. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein
2 the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the
3 plurality of dispatchers.

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1 78. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to replace in the packet a network
3 address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the
4 selected server.